

July 30, 1998

The Politics of Stonewalling

Senate Democrats Put Special Interests First

With only about five work weeks remaining on the legislative calendar for the 105th Congress, Democrats in the Senate have amassed quite a record of under-achievement when it comes to doing the nation's business. The pattern is clear: Senate Democrats have made it their business to put the special interests of trial lawyers and union bosses at the top of the legislative agenda, to put politics over principle.

Since assuming the minority in 1995, Senate Democrats have stonewalled, and continue to stonewall, meaningful reform. From welfare reform on the national level (104th Congress) down to a single local program to give underprivileged students in the District of Columbia a chance to choose a better school (Coats amendment), Democrats have been there to block the way.

Filibuster Kills Major Initiatives in 105th Congress

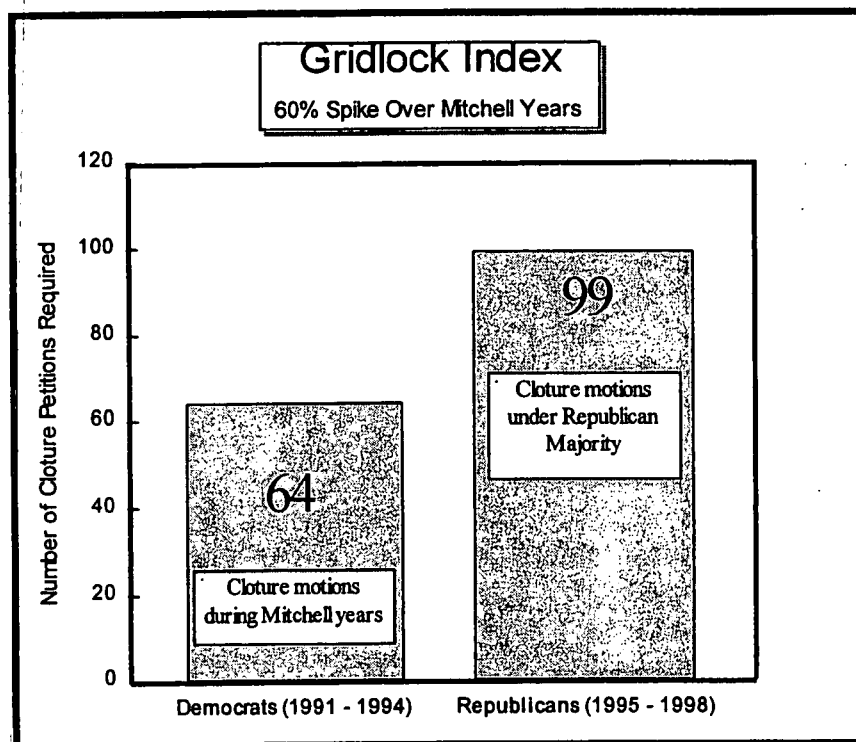
Two for Union Bosses
Flexible Work Schedules
Paycheck Protection

Four for Trial Lawyers
Tobacco Bill
Product Liability
Property Rights
Volunteer Protection Act

Three: "Politics as Usual"
Campaign Finance Reform
American Missile Protection
Nuclear Waste

Note: Number of Cloture motions tabulated as of July 29 each year.

Cloture Nearly 60% Higher with Democratic Minority



Legislation Filibustered by Senate Democrats in the 105th Congress

(Partial list, as of July 29, 1998)

Nuclear Waste Policy Act (S. 104)

4 cloture motions, prevented final passage

Volunteer Protection Act (S. 543)

4 cloture motions, prevented floor debate

Family Friendly Workplace "Flex-time" Act (S. 4)

2 cloture motions, prevented final passage

FDA Reform (S. 830)

4 cloture motions, required 3 weeks floor action to complete

Scholarships for District Students

1 cloture motion, prevented vote on Coats amendment

Paycheck Protection

3 cloture motions, prevented vote on Lott amendment

Education Savings Accounts (1997 version)

7 cloture motions before allowing final vote

American Missile Protection Act (S. 1873)

1 cloture motion, prevented final passage

Nuclear Waste Policy Act (S. 104 & H.R. 1270)

3 cloture motions, prevented floor debate

Product Liability (S. 648)

2 cloture motions, prevented final passage

Property Rights (S. 2271)

1 cloture motion, prevented floor debate

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